

7 SIGNS
— OF THE —
END
TIMES

BRITT GILLETTE

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Britt Gillette

Introduction

Are you watching for Jesus? If not, why?

After all, Jesus Himself said those who are ready and waiting when He returns will be rewarded (***Luke 12:37***). He teaches in several parables we need to be spiritually awake and ready for His return. These parables include the master and the servant (***Mark 13:34-37***) and the ten virgins (***Matthew 25:1-13***). No doubt about it. Jesus said to watch for His return!

While we can't know the exact time of His return (***Matthew 24:36***), Jesus said we can know the general time or "season" of His return (***Matthew 24:33***). This means we should be alert, spiritually disciplined, and watching for the signs of His arrival.

But do you know what signs to look for? If not, you need to learn them and commit them to memory. Why? Because many of those signs are present today, and when you point them out to non-believers, there's a good chance they'll become believers too. And you know what? There's no greater gift you can give than to introduce someone to Jesus!

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (***John 14:6***). He gives hope to a hopeless world (***Romans 5:5***). And Peter says we should always be ready to tell others the reason for the hope we have (***1 Peter 3:15***).

Many Christians believe we're in the last days. They see the state of this world, and it's clear to them Jesus will return soon. Unfortunately, many of those same Christians can't explain why they believe what they do. They don't know or understand the signs, and so naturally, they don't recognize them. But if they don't understand or recognize the signs, how can they explain their belief in the soon return of Jesus to others?

For example, have you ever heard this?

"For centuries, people have said Jesus is coming, but..."

You can finish that sentence in many ways, such as "so did people 1,000

years ago.” Or “He hasn’t come yet.” Or “every generation has thought that.” Or “the world keeps going on.”

I hear this all the time. The idea is since people in the past thought Jesus was coming, and He didn't, you're a nut if you think He'll return in our day and time. Or, to put it another way, because Jesus hasn't come back yet, He'll never come back. This is a way for people to dismiss the idea Jesus is ever coming back. Unfortunately, I hear this most often from one group of people – Christians!

It's disappointing to hear Christians, the very people who should be watching for His return, say that Jesus isn't coming back. However, it's not surprising. In fact, it's yet another sign Jesus is right at the door and about to return. Why do I say that? Because Peter said these exact comments would be common in the last days:

"Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. They will say, 'What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.'" **2 Peter 3:3-4 (NLT)**

Did you get that? The very argument we hear over and over today – the idea of the world being the same as it's always been... The idea Jesus isn't coming back, because He hasn't come back yet... This is the argument skeptics use today. Amazingly, those who mock the idea of the Second Coming are fulfilling a specific prophecy of His return!

A Sign of the End?

So do these comments alone mean Jesus is coming back in our day and time?

No. Alone, the doubts of skeptics aren't proof Jesus is on the verge of coming back.

But take another look at what Peter said:

“They will say, 'What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.'" **2 Peter 3:4 (NLT)**

How many times have you heard someone say, “It's the same now as it's always been”? Or “the more things change, the more they remain the same”? How about something similar?

You've probably heard it a lot.

But is it? Is the world really the same as it's always been?

Some will say yes. They'll claim no signs of Jesus's return are present today. And if they do acknowledge the signs, more often than not, they'll claim those signs aren't unique to our time. Either way, you need to set the record straight. Because the signs are everywhere, and they *are* unique to our generation.

We're going to look at just seven of those signs. These signs are so clear, no rational person can dismiss them. In fact, these signs are so unique, no Christian could point to even one of them for the first 1,800 years of Christianity!

Commit these signs to memory. As Peter says, “be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (*1 Peter 3:15*). Remember these signs. Then, the next time someone tells you there's no evidence Jesus is coming, set them straight. Tell them about these signs!

Sign #1 - Israel Back in the Land

In A.D. 70, Roman soldiers put down a Jewish rebellion, sacked Jerusalem, and destroyed the Temple. Then, they carried the Jewish people to the farthest corners of the Empire to serve as slaves. In the years that followed, they tried to destroy every trace of the nation of Israel. They even renamed the land Palestine in honor of Israel's historical enemies, the Philistines. Rome wanted to erase Israel from history. And, as anyone who understands history knows, when ancient Rome decided it was going to do something, it usually got its way.

Fortunately, God had other plans. Thousands of years ago, He foretold the long exile of His people. He promised to call them from "among the nations" (*Ezekiel 39:28*), from "the farthest corners of the earth" (*Isaiah 11:12*), and from "north, south, east, and west" (*Psalms 107:3*). He promised to welcome the Jewish people home from the lands where they were scattered (*Ezekiel 20:34*), and He promised to restore them to the land of Israel from distant lands (*Jeremiah 30:2, 10*).

And you know what? This is exactly what He did. Every man, woman, and child on earth is an eyewitness to the modern miracle of Israel. Long ago, the prophets said the regathering of Israel will come before the greatest event in history - the coming of the Messiah to set up His everlasting Kingdom (*Isaiah 35, Joel 3, Jeremiah 23, Micah 4*). In other words, Israel's mere existence in our day and time is a clear sign Jesus is on His way.

In fact, not only did God promise to restore Israel, but He promised to do so by opening the "graves" of her exiles (*Ezekiel 37:12*) at a time when they feel "all hope is gone" (*Ezekiel 37:11*). History shows this was the exact condition of the Jewish people just before the modern state of Israel was created.

Hitler and the Nazis nearly destroyed an entire race of people. But after the Holocaust, God brought the Jewish people back into the land of Israel - just as He had promised. On May 14, 1948, Israel reappeared in fulfillment of not just *Ezekiel 37*, but countless Old Testament prophecies.

And the reason this is such a big deal is because the Bible makes it clear – the Messiah will come soon after the restoration of Israel. The scriptures said the people of Israel would go a long time without a king, sacrifices, sacred pillars, or priests, then they will return to the land “in the last days” (*Hosea 3:4-5*).

Through the prophet Isaiah, God promised the desert would bloom (*Isaiah 35:1*). We’ve seen this happen with the modern state of Israel. A century ago, it was a desert wasteland. Today, it is a land of abundance. In the verses that follow, Isaiah says the blooming of the desert takes place just before “the Lord returns to destroy Israel’s enemies” (*Isaiah 35:2-4*).

Through Jeremiah, God promised to gather the remnant of His flock from the nations where he had driven them and bring them back into the land (*Jeremiah 23:3-4*). Then, God promised to raise up a righteous descendant of King David, a king who will rule the land with wisdom (*Jeremiah 23:5-6*).

Who is this righteous King? The Messiah.

And when will He come to rule? *When the people are back in the land* (*Jeremiah 23:7-8*).

Through Micah, God promised to bring the exiled Jewish people back into the land and form them into a strong nation. Then, He promised to rule from Jerusalem as their king forever (*Micah 4:6-7*). How long? *Forever*.

Through Isaiah, God promised to establish a Messianic Kingdom of perfect peace and tranquility where “the wolf and the lamb will lie together.” Where “leopards will lie down with goats.” Where “a baby can play with a cobra and not be bitten!” (*Isaiah 11:6-9*). This is the long-awaited Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ. And when does God say it will come?

You got it. Right after His people are called out of exile from the distant ends of the earth (*Isaiah 11:11-12*). Right after Israel is reborn as a single, unified nation (*Isaiah 11:13*).

Think about that. Think about how amazing the current nation of Israel is.

For 1,878 years (A.D. 70 to A.D. 1948), the Jewish people were scattered among the nations. Yet, during their long exile, they remained a distinct race. They kept their unique customs and identity. They continued to worship the same God. Has this ever happened before? In all of human history, what conquered nation has managed to hold on to its unique identity? Only the Jewish people.

Despite centuries of intense persecution (including beatings, forced conversions, and outright massacres), the Jewish people have not only survived, they've thrived. While the Jewish people only make up 0.2% of the world's population, their ranks include some of the world's top business leaders, doctors, lawyers, scientists, writers, musicians, artists, economists, and physicists.

The restoration of Israel as a nation is one of the greatest signs Jesus and the prophets said to look for. Yet for 1,878 years, Christians could not point to this

sign. Israel did not exist. The Jews were not in the land. But today? More than six million Jews live in Israel. And every day, more arrive to settle in the land. Of all the signs of the end times, the re-establishment of Israel as an independent nation is the clearest and most unmistakable sign that Jesus is coming soon.

Sign #2 - The Jews Back in Jerusalem

When the disciples asked Jesus to tell them the signs of His coming and the end of the age, one of the things He told them was this, "Jerusalem will be surrounded by armies. Her people will be killed or taken captive. And Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles come to an end." And then? After that, Jesus promised to return (**Luke 21:24-28**).

So what did He mean? What does it mean for Jerusalem to “be trampled”?

It means non-Jewish people will control Jerusalem. But Jesus said once their time of ruling Jerusalem ends, when the Jewish people once again control Jerusalem – then the end will come. So what happened after Jesus said this?

Just as He promised, Jerusalem was surrounded by armies in A.D. 70 (**Luke 21:20**). Titus and the Roman legions sacked Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, and carried the people away as slaves. When this happened, the Jewish people lost control of Jerusalem, and “the times of the Gentiles” began.

For centuries thereafter, foreign kings and kingdoms held complete control over the Temple Mount and the Old City of Jerusalem. First the Romans, then the Byzantines, the Caliphates, the Crusaders, the Mamluks, the Ottomans, the Brits, and the Jordanians. Then, in June 1967, the Six Day War concluded with Israel in complete control of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount for the first time since A.D. 70. According to Jesus, this is one of the primary signs Christians should look for. It means Jesus is coming soon.

Since Israel retook the City in 1967, the division of Jerusalem and ownership of the Temple Mount in particular, have been a source of countless U.N. resolutions, diplomatic crises, and calls for war.

This also should come as no surprise. The prophet Zechariah said the city would become a major issue for world leaders in the last days:

"I will make Jerusalem and Judah like an intoxicating drink to all the nearby nations that send their armies to besiege Jerusalem. On that day I will make

Jerusalem a heavy stone, a burden for the world. None of the nations who try to lift it will escape unscathed." Zechariah 12:2-3 (NLT)

The struggle over the "Peace Process" in the Middle East is the stated number one priority of world diplomats, and the division of Jerusalem is at the center of talks about "land for peace."

With the threat of World War III casting a shadow over every decision to rebuild Jewish settlements or expand Israeli control, the City of Jerusalem is no doubt "a burden for the world." We've come to expect it.

But this isn't the way it's always been.

Until this generation, Jerusalem was not "a burden for the world." In fact, prior to 1948, world leaders rarely mentioned it.

This is why Jewish control of Jerusalem is a major sign marking the soon return of Jesus. Like the modern nation of Israel, it's a sign unique to our generation. For 1,897 years, Christians could not point to this sign. The Jewish people did not control Jerusalem. For 1,897 years, foreign kings and kingdoms ruled over Jerusalem. But today? Today, Israel controls Jerusalem. And Jesus said when you see that happen, you can know He's right at the door, ready to return.

Sign #3 - An Increase in Travel and Knowledge

About 2,600 years ago, an angel told the prophet Daniel “travel and knowledge” will increase in the end times (*Daniel 12:4*). In other words, a noted increase in travel and knowledge will mark the time just prior to the return of Jesus.

Have we seen such an increase? I think the answer is obvious. In recent years, we’ve seen an explosion in travel and knowledge.

When Daniel recorded this prophecy, horses were the world’s the fastest mode of transportation. And 2,000 years later, horses were still the world’s fastest way to travel. This didn’t really change until the Industrial Revolution led to steam boats, trains, cars, and airplanes.

Prior to the 20th Century, few people traveled more than a few dozen miles from where they were born. Today, people travel from one continent to another in the same day. It’s commonplace. In fact, we can travel to the other side of the earth in a matter of hours.

No doubt about it. Frequency and speed of travel have markedly increased!

But what about knowledge?

In Daniel’s time, few people received a formal education. In fact, only an elite few enjoyed basic literacy until the past 100 to 150 years.

But now? In the past century alone, human knowledge of science, biology, technology, and other subjects has exploded. The rise of the Internet has created a worldwide library of human knowledge far exceeding the wildest dreams of the great ancient civilizations.

Just think about how much information is on the Internet. In 1990, there was only one website. Just one! Six years later, the Internet had more than a hundred thousand. And a decade later? One hundred million. Today, the number of websites is estimated to be six hundred million.

Is our level of knowledge today “the same as previous generations”?

Absolutely not. That should be clear to everyone. Human knowledge has seen a dramatic increase in recent years. Think this is a sign Jesus is about to

return? I do.

For the first 1,800 years of Christianity, human travel and knowledge changed relatively little. In the past 150 years, we've seen massive increases in both. During that time, we've gone from horse drawn carriages to landing on the moon. We've gone from exploring the wonders of the western frontier to exploring the building blocks of the universe.

Sign #4 Israel With an Exceedingly Great Army

In a heavenly vision, the prophet Ezekiel saw the Jewish people come to life and stand up as "*an exceedingly great army*" (*Ezekiel 37:10*). The prophet Zechariah repeated this promise, speaking of a day when Israel would be like a fire among sheaves of grain, burning up the neighboring nations (*Zechariah 12:6*). In fact, he claimed even the weakest Israeli soldier would be like David (*Zechariah 12:8*).

So when will this happen? When does the Bible say Israel will emerge as a world military power with an "exceedingly great army"? If you guessed "in the last days," you would be correct. The Bible says it will happen "when God's people are re-gathered in the land just before the Messiah returns" (*Ezekiel 12, 36, 37*). When the Jewish people have been "brought back from the nations where they were scattered, and given the land of Israel by God Himself" (*Ezekiel 11:17*). And of course, we already know from the prophets that this will happen in the last days.

Do we see this today? Is Israel a world military power with an exceedingly great army? Yes. It is.

What are the odds of Israel winning four wars in 25 years? It barely cracks the Top 100 nations in terms of population, but its military consistently ranks among the most powerful in the world. The whole country is less than 13,000 square miles (approximately the size of New Jersey). That's *less than one-tenth of one percent* of the land mass of the surrounding nations that wish to destroy her. Does this sound like a recipe for "an exceedingly great army"?

It doesn't. But that's exactly what the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) is. Surrounded on all sides, a brand new nation with no formal military emerged victorious in a multi-front war in 1948. With Syria, Jordan, and Egypt preparing for war, the Israelis struck first in 1967. The result? They achieved overwhelming victory *in just six days*.

Caught by surprise on Yom Kippur in 1973, her enemies almost cut Israel in half within 48 hours. But Israel quickly won back all the territory it lost in the

opening days of the war, and the world brokered a truce with Israel at the gates of Cairo and Damascus.

Against all odds, Israel always comes out on top. Israel, a nation with a population of only 8 million. Israel, a nation bordered by enemy nations with a total population of 116 million. Israel, a nation built on a desert wasteland. Yet, in spite of it all, Israel thrives. Do you ever wonder why? I don't. God promised to raise up Israel in the last days (*Isaiah 11:12*), and we are simply witnesses to His glory.

For 1,878 years, Israel didn't even exist as a nation. It certainly didn't field "an exceedingly great army." Century after century, anyone who claimed Jesus was coming couldn't point to this sign. Not only was Israel *not* a world military power, it didn't even exist as a nation! But today? In less than a century, Israel has gone from a people without a home to a nation with one of the world's most powerful armed forces.

Sign #5 - Rise of the Gog of Magog Alliance

More than 2,600 years ago, the prophet Ezekiel warned of a future time when a vast coalition of nations will attack Israel. The Bible reveals the details of this future battle in the Book of Ezekiel, chapters 38 and 39.

So when does the Bible tell us this alliance will form?

The Bible says this alliance will form and come against Israel “in the latter days” (*Ezekiel 38:8*). God Himself confirms this when He says the invasion will occur “after Israel’s people have been gathered from among many nations” (*Ezekiel 38:8*). He says it will happen “when I bring my people home from among the enemy nations” (*Ezekiel 39:27*).

Ezekiel identifies the nations in the Gog of Magog Alliance as “Magog, Rosh, Meschech, Tubal, Persia, Cush, Put, Gomer, and Beth-togarmah” (*Ezekiel 38:1-6*). Keep in mind Ezekiel named these nations as they were known in his day. Yet each one represents a nation existing today. In fact, long before Russia became a world power, biblical experts pointed to Rosh as the nation of Russia and Gog as its ruler.

Below is the list of nations cited. The Old Testament name is listed first, followed by its name today:

Rosh = Russia

Magog = Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan

Persia = Iran

Cush = Sudan

Put = Libya

Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, and Beth-togarmah = Turkey

Up until March 21, 1935, the world knew the nation of Iran as Persia. This is the same Persia referenced in the Gog of Magog Alliance. Ezekiel’s prophecies are

about 2,600 years old. Yet, in all those years, Russia and Persia have never been part of an alliance of any sort. Economic and military cooperation between Persia (Iran) and Russia didn't take place until about 1989.

But today? Iran and Russia are strong allies. For example, in 1995 the Russian Ministry for Atomic Energy signed an agreement with Iran to finish the Bushehr nuclear power plant. Construction on the plant stopped after the 1979 Islamic revolution. But today, thanks to Russia, work is once again in progress. The two nations continue to strengthen their ties, and Russia is one of only a few world powers consistently defending Iran's nuclear program.

Turkey is another interesting member of the alliance. Since the rebirth of Israel in 1948, bible prophecy experts have struggled to figure out how Turkey fits in.

Why?

Because in 1949, Turkey became the first Muslim majority nation to recognize the state of Israel. Turkey and Israel have a long history of diplomatic, economic, and military cooperation. Turkey is also a member of NATO. And what is the purpose of NATO? Its purpose is to defend member nations against Russian aggression. So why would Turkey join a Russian alliance to invade another country?

While it hasn't made sense in recent years, the idea doesn't seem so far-fetched today. In May 2010, Turkey and Russia signed a series of energy agreements, including a pact to build Turkey's first nuclear power plant. And in recent years, Turkey's domestic politics – historically secular in nature – have been heavily influenced by Islam. In 2016, this led to a coup by Turkish President Recep Erdogan, and the likely end of western democracy in Turkey. The rise of an autocratic, Islamic regime gives Turkey more than enough motive to join the Gog of Magog Alliance.

Keep in mind that, with the exception of Russia, the nations in the Gog of Magog Alliance are all majority Muslim nations.

For the first 1,900+ years of Christianity, nothing resembling the Gog of Magog Alliance existed. Russia and Iran had no historical military or economic ties. And the other nations in the alliance had little in common. But now? In recent years, Russia and Iran have cooperated in diplomatic, military, and economic endeavors. And the other nations in this biblical alliance share a common driving force – Islam. Today, we see the beginnings of this alliance – an alliance we would expect to see just before Jesus returns.

Sign #6 - The Rise of a United Europe

The Bible says a revived Roman Empire will come to power in the end times (*Daniel 2, Daniel 7, Revelation 17*). This will be the final world empire before Jesus returns. According to Daniel, it will be a ten nation alliance made up of weak and strong nations. Some parts will be as strong as iron, while other parts will be as weak as clay (*Daniel 2:42*). Do we see this empire today? No. Not yet. Do we see an alliance of strong and weak nations in the area of the old Roman Empire. Absolutely!

It's called the European Union, and its entire purpose is to collectively strengthen its member nations through alliance. Daniel said this would be the same purpose of the final world empire. Its member nations would attempt to strengthen themselves through “intermarriage” (*Daniel 2:43*).

As of this writing, the EU contains the world's 4th, 5th, and 6th largest economies (Germany, the United Kingdom, and France). It also contains the world's 103rd, 112th, and 136th largest economies (Estonia, Iceland, and Malta).

When it comes to military spending, the EU contains the world's 4th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 18th largest militaries (the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain). Yet, it also contains the world's 80th, 87th, 91st, and 93rd (Bulgaria, Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia).

Alone, not a single EU nation is a world power. Together, they are the world's greatest economic power. Combined, their military spending is second only to the United States. No doubt about it - the EU is a superpower. It's a revived Roman Empire made up of weak and strong nations. And this is what the Bible says will exist just before Jesus returns.

The global empire described by Daniel will be divided (*Daniel 2:41*). It will struggle to hold itself together, just as iron and clay struggle to hold themselves together (*Daniel 2:43*). Do we see this type of alliance when we look at the EU? Absolutely!

Since its inception, the EU has been an odd collection of governments,

economies, currencies, and militaries. From the Schuman Declaration in 1950 to the Treaty of Lisbon in 2007, the rise of the EU has been marked by a struggle to agree on important issues. These include arguments over a single currency (the United Kingdom and Denmark opted out of the euro), disagreements over how to handle debt crises (the Greek bailouts), disputes over open borders (the Syrian refugee crisis), and votes to leave the union (Brexit). Each step along the way, the EU struggled to survive. Yet it remains intact.

For the first 1,900+ years of Christianity, such an empire did not exist in any form. No Christian could point to a European empire made up of weak and strong nations (*Daniel 2:42*). There was no sign of a revived Roman Empire divided against itself (*Daniel 2:41*), and no sign of a volatile and unstable empire made up of nations trying to come together and strengthen themselves (*Daniel 2:43*). Yet today, such a sign exists. Coincidence? I don't think so.

Sign #7 - The Gospel Preached Throughout the World

When His followers questioned Him about the end of the age and the signs of His coming, Jesus told them to look for a very specific sign. He said the Gospel will be preached throughout the entire world, so that every nation will hear it - and then the end will come (*Matthew 24:14*).

Think we're getting close to that day now? I do. The Bible is available in hundreds of languages. Satellites broadcast Christian programming throughout the world. And every day, missionaries carry the Gospel to people who have never heard it before. We're not there yet, but we're getting close.

Unfortunately, while this sign is all around us, most people don't see it as a sign. They don't think the global reach of Christianity is a big deal. But think about it. The promise to see the Gospel preached throughout the world was made by a Jewish carpenter with some fishermen as followers nearly 2,000 years ago. That's a bold proclamation, and its fulfillment is something the world takes for granted.

During Jesus's time on earth, only a small number of people in and around Jerusalem heard His message. His followers were ordinary. They were fisherman and tax collectors, not kings and conquering heroes. While Jesus certainly knew what He was saying, His followers didn't have a clue how big the world was. After all, they didn't even know whole continents existed! The odds of such a group preaching their message "throughout the whole world" was quite remote.

Yet, 2,000 years later, the Gospel is preached in every nation, the Bible is translated in hundreds of languages, and the message of Jesus is delivered through thousands of ministries via radio, cable TV, satellite, and the Internet.

Can every generation of Christians since Jesus say this? Can the skeptics say, "It's always been this way?"

Nope.

The truth is our generation is closer to preaching the Gospel "throughout the whole world" than any preceding generation. Think about it. While the message of

Jesus spread throughout the Roman Empire rather quickly, it remained largely confined to Europe and Israel for 1,000 years. The Gospel wasn't preached in China. It didn't make it to Japan. You couldn't hear it in North America, South America, or Australia. It simply wasn't heard worldwide.

For the first 1,500 years after Jesus, you could only find a few Christians outside of Europe, western Asia, and the Mediterranean region. Even after 1,900 years of Christianity, many regional world populations had yet to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But today? Today, only a tiny minority of the world's seven billion people *haven't* heard the Gospel. Nearly 2,000 years ago, a Jewish carpenter said His message would be preached to the entire earth. That's bold. Our generation is on the verge of seeing that bold claim become a reality. When it does, Jesus says He'll return.

Watching for the Signs

These are just seven signs of the end times, but they aren't the only signs. A full study of every sign present today is beyond the scope of this booklet. That said, these are big signs. By themselves, they should convince you the return of Jesus is near.

Why? Because Jesus Himself said they would. He said just as circling vultures tell you a dead animal is nearby, so these signs tell you the end is near (*Matthew 24:28*). In reference to His first coming, Jesus told the Pharisees, "You can recognize the signs in the sky and know what type of weather is coming, yet you don't know how to recognize the signs of the times" (*Matthew 16:3*). Will He say the same about us? Will He condemn this generation for its failure to recognize the signs of the times?

The Bible has much to say about the last days and the Second Coming of Jesus. As His followers, we are told to watch and look for the signs of His coming. Jesus said when you see the signs, you will know He's near, right at the door (*Matthew 24:33*). He also said, when you see the signs, you should look up, because your salvation is near (*Luke 21:28*).

Are you prepared for His coming? Are you living your life as if Jesus could come back at any moment?

We're expected to be watchmen for the world. We're expected to point out these signs to others and warn them the end is near. If the world ignores us, so be it. But if we recognize the signs and don't tell others about them, we're no different than a watchman who sees an invading army and doesn't sound the alarm. If we fail in our role as watchmen, God says He will hold us accountable for all those who perish (*Ezekiel 33:1-6*).

Have you been watching? If not, why?

Remember, all prophecy exists to give a clear witness for Jesus (*Revelation 19:10*). And prophecy is telling us something profound – Jesus is coming!

About the Author

Britt Gillette is a devoted follower of Jesus Christ, husband to Jen, and father to Samantha and Tommy. He and his family live in Virginia.

Britt is also the author of:

[Coming To Jesus](#)

[Signs Of The Second Coming](#)

Come Visit Us on the Web

Britt writes a number of articles about Jesus Christ and bible prophecy on his website, [End Times Bible Prophecy](#). Please drop by and visit!

Excerpt From Signs of the Second Coming

FOREWORD

In my first book, *Coming To Jesus: One Man's Search for Truth and Life Purpose*, I tell the story of my personal struggle with the universal questions of life and my search to uncover the truth. That search ultimately led to the Bible, where I discovered the existence of countless specific and fulfilled prophecies.

In my mind, the existence of these prophecies verifies the claim that the Bible is the Word of God. No other book in the history of the world comes anywhere close to matching the Bible's track record of fulfilled prophecy. In fact, if you're keeping score (and you should), the Bible has a *perfect* track record when it comes to fulfilled prophecy. That's right. Perfect.

Every single prophecy found in the Bible (with the exception of those regarding the end times and beyond) has been fulfilled to the last letter. Did you know that? Years ago, I didn't. But then I discovered these astounding prophecies – detailed prophecies written hundreds and sometimes thousands of years in advance.

For example, did you know the Bible foretold the rise of the Greek Empire under Alexander the Great and its break-up into four kingdoms following his death (*Daniel 8:5-22*)? Did you know the Bible foretold the destruction of the Temple and the long, worldwide exile of the Jewish people (*Luke 21:20-24*)? The Bible even called out Cyrus the Great by name as the king who would give the command to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple (*Isaiah 44:28-45:13*). And the Bible made every one of these prophecies centuries in advance of their fulfillment. But you know what else?

That's just the tip of the iceberg.

The Messianic Prophecies

The Bible also foretold the coming of a Messiah who would save the world. The prophet Zechariah claimed He would release a multitude from "death in a

waterless dungeon" (*Zechariah 9:11*). And the prophet Isaiah said, through Him, many will be counted as righteous (*Isaiah 53:11-12*). The Messianic prophecies are so specific and detailed in nature, they even include the actual year of the Messiah's arrival foretold more than 400 years in advance (*Daniel 9:25*). They detail the His birth, life, death, and resurrection, and these prophecies were all fulfilled in the life of one man and one man only – Jesus of Nazareth.

In fact, these prophecies played a pivotal role in my commitment to follow Jesus. But of course, if you read my first book, you know this already. But you know what?

That's not all I found...

Yet To Be Fulfilled Prophecies

Through study of the Bible, I found something else – hundreds of prophecies concerning *future* events. So what are these prophecies about? A whole range of subjects such as future wars, political events, and the establishment of an everlasting Kingdom ruled by Jesus Himself. But an overwhelming number of these prophecies focus on a single event – the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. In fact, the Bible contains more prophecies describing His Second Coming than it does His First.

Given that every single prophecy describing His First Coming was fulfilled to the letter, doesn't it make sense to believe the prophecies of His Second Coming will also be fulfilled? I think so. In my mind, the only question is *when* they will be fulfilled, not *if*.

Watching for Signs

Jesus rebuked the religious elites of His day for their failure to recognize His First Coming. He told them, "You know how to look at the sky and predict the weather, but you don't know how to recognize the signs of the times" (*Matthew 16:1-3*). In other words, just like you and me, the Pharisees and Sadducees could look at dark clouds on the horizon and know that a rain storm was on its way. Likewise, they also knew the Old Testament Messianic prophecies. Yet they failed to recognize their fulfillment in Jesus. Had they prepared themselves spiritually and made a serious commitment to study the Messianic prophecies and watch for their fulfillment, I have no doubt they would have recognized Jesus as the Messiah.

But there's more to this story. As I studied the Bible, I realized Jesus wasn't simply addressing the Pharisees and Sadducees. He had a second audience in mind. Who?

You and me.

That's right. Jesus was talking to you and me. Jesus had a lot to say about His return, and He told us to faithfully watch for it. In fact, He did far more than that.

He **commanded** us to watch:

"You, too, must keep watch! For you don't know when the master of the household will return – in the evening, at midnight, before dawn, or at daybreak. Don't let him find you sleeping when he arrives without warning. I say to you what I say to everyone: Watch for him!" Mark 13:35-37 (NLT)

As a follower of Jesus, I take this command seriously. And long ago, I made a conscious decision to stay alert, study these signs, and watch as He commanded. But what I found when I studied these prophecies is not at all what I expected. What did I find? I found that all the signs Jesus and the prophets said to look for are present **right now**.

And not only are they present, but ours is the only generation in all of history that can make that claim. And you know what else? Jesus said once you see the presence of all those signs, He's coming. Does that get your attention?

Chapter 1

The Timing of the Second Coming

On October 22, 1844, thousands of people throughout the United States gathered on hills and mountain tops. Many of them sold everything they owned in anticipation of that day. Some left their jobs. Others even left their families. But why? What did those people gather together and do on those hills and mountaintops?

Believe it or not, they waited. That's right. They waited. All day long, they sat around and waited. But why?

They waited because they had convinced themselves beyond all doubt that October 22, 1844 was the day of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. You've probably heard of this group.

Their belief was based in part on the teachings of William Miller. A Baptist preacher, Miller originally pinpointed the date of the Second Coming as destined to occur sometime between March 1843 and March 1844.

When those dates came and went, most of his followers (known as Millerites) realized the error of their ways and returned to life as normal. But the rest latched onto a new date and gathered together on that infamous Tuesday in 1844. Needless to say, the result was the same. That date too came and went, and Jesus did not return.

So why am I telling you this story? Because I want you to know that the Millerites should have known without a doubt that October 22, 1844 was *not* the day of Jesus' return. Why? Because Jesus Himself said "no man knows the day or the hour of my return, not even myself. Only my Father in heaven knows" (*Mark 13:32*). So any attempt to set a specific date for the Second Coming is nothing more than pure guesswork. It's completely at odds with God's Word.

The Negative Effects of Date Setting

Even though Jesus made it clear that no one can know the day or the hour of His return, that hasn't stopped an untold number of people from claiming He will return on a specific date. One modern example is the media circus surrounding Harold Camping's prediction that Jesus would return on May 21, 2011. Of course, you and I both know Jesus didn't come back that day.

Nevertheless, Camping and the Millerites are far from an isolated case when

it comes to the practice of "date setting." History is littered with individuals and groups who preached Jesus would return on a specific day or at a specific time. Yet every one of those claims ended in disappointment.

It's bad enough when false predictions shake the faith of a few misguided people, but date setting has had a much more devastating effect. So many people have sounded false alarms that any mention of the Second Coming falls on deaf ears. It's like a modern day case of *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*.

Because of date setters, many people (and that includes a lot of Christians) have simply written off the prospect that Jesus will *ever* return, while others heap scorn and ridicule on those who look forward to His Coming.

Today, anyone who dares to suggest the Second Coming of Jesus Christ might take place any time in the near future is mocked and ridiculed. A common refrain we often hear from skeptics goes something like this, "*Jesus is coming? Sure. Heard that one before. So and so claimed Jesus was coming in the year 1000. Didn't happen. So and so claimed He was coming in 1790 and 1844 and 1900 and 2000, etc. Every single one of those claims was wrong, and anyone who says He's coming back now will be just as wrong.*"

Now, I can understand why a lot of people feel this way. After all, on the face of it, this argument seems to make sense. But there's a big problem with it. It attributes failed human predictions to the Bible – predictions the Bible didn't make. After all, the Bible didn't predict the return of Jesus Christ in 1844 – the Millerites did. The Bible didn't predict that Y2K would herald the Second Coming – imperfect humans did.

If you take the time to examine the evidence, you'll find it's not the Bible that has a history of failed predictions. It's people. In contrast, the Bible's track record is *perfect*. And in regard to the Second Coming, it's clear about what we should look for.

The Time of His Coming

So if Jesus Himself says no one can know the day or the hour of His Coming, what (if anything) can we know about it? For years, I've heard people say we can't know anything at all. Yet, that's far from what Jesus said. So why is it that so many Christians insist we can't know anything about the timing of His return? What is their belief based on?

More often than not, their belief is based on the idea that Jesus "will come like a thief in the night" (*1 Thessalonians 5:2*), and this is true. Jesus Himself said He would come like a thief in the night "when least expected" (*Matthew 24:43-44*).

This idea, coupled with the statement that "no one can know the day or the hour" of His return, has led many people to conclude that no one can know

anything about when Jesus is coming. After all, if He comes like a thief in the night when least expected, how could you know when He's coming?

That's a good question. And fortunately, I know the answer. You see, I've read the Bible, and it clearly tells us that we can know the general "season" of His return. Don't believe me? Just read the rest of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians.

While it says Jesus will come like a thief in the night when least expected, it also says ***Christians will not be surprised***. Here's the full context of that passage (emphasis mine):

"But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and ***you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief***. For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation." ***1 Thessalonians 5:4-8*** (NLT)

Did you catch that? Do you see what this passage says? It says that Jesus will come like a thief in the night and surprise non-Christians and Christians who are spiritually asleep. Alert and watchful Christians will not be caught off guard by His return. But how can this be?

While Jesus said we can never know ***the day or the hour*** of His return (***Matthew 24:36***), we do have the ability to recognize the ***general timeframe***. Why do I say this?

Because that's what Jesus Himself said.

When His disciples asked Him to describe "the signs of His coming," Jesus described a number of events and concluded by saying, "When you see these things occur, look up. For your salvation is near!" (***Luke 21:28***).

Is Jesus contradicting Himself? After all, in one instance, Jesus tells us no one can know the day or the hour of His return. Then later, He says we should look up for Him when we see certain events occur. On the face of it, this doesn't make sense. So how do we reconcile these statements? The answer is by reading and understanding God's Word. After all, the Bible clearly states what will happen in the last days.

So what does it say about the Second Coming? Does the Bible say we can know the time of Christ's return? The answer might surprise you. Because it's both ***yes and no***.

Now when I say that, you're probably thinking, "*Now wait a minute, Britt. You can't straddle the fence on this one. It's either one or the other. It can't be both!*" But I assure you that's not the case. The Bible is quite clear. But in order to

grasp this concept, you first need to understand *the nature* of the Second Coming.

End of sample.
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